

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, May 15. 1708.

I Acquainted you last Time of a brief Conversation among some eminent Persons *up yonder*, I know not where *in the Moon*, who being to choose Deputies or R——s, or such Kind of Folks, had made an honest *Shock-Dog* stand for C——e in one of their Burrough Towns.

I gave you a Scheme by it of the Corruption and ill Practices made use of among the wicked People of those *Lunar Regions*; I hope, no Body will be so ill-natur'd as to suggest, that such Things as these are practis'd *below the Moon*. No, no, Gentlemen, nothing like it I'll assure you, we never had any Thing of that Sort among us—Choose a Lord's Shock-Dog! Fye, fye, such Stuff was never practis'd in this World, I am satisfy'd—We hardly ever had a Shock

Dog sat in the H—— of C——, since I can remember.

What may be said by some ill-natur'd People about the Influence of *Ale* and *Money* in Elections, may look that Way, Indeed; for I confess, *Money* and *Ale* will do strange Things among us, and has done strange Things—But a *Shock-Dog* is so gross, so wild a Tale, that it can never be apply'd to us—What if E——, having but 26 Electors in his Town, made them all drunk, and they chose One they never saw in their Lives, and *be might have been a Shock-Dog for ought they knew*? Nay, what if the Town of T—— has for many Years chosen whatever Sir E— S— bad them, and perhaps sometimes might have done as well, if they had made a Lunar Election? What if

S—

S— chose H—, as he rode a Horseback thro' the Town, merely for Want of Somebody else, upon Condition of *so much Ale*? These Elections were all made of MEN, however qualify'd I don't determine; but a SHOCK-DOG, bless us! what a R—e would he make?

Therefore, Gentlemen, pray be not uneasie for however, *Allegorically speaking*, the Simily may suit some old Elections in England, yet Litterally it can not be: No, no, the People of England never were so far blinded as that came to.

Perhaps, as before, an Election has pass'd a la-mode of Bedlam, as at T—, or a la-mode a Bellinggate, as at S—, or a la-mode a Beimgarden, as at C—, perhaps with Eyes shut and Mouths open, Men have cry'd in and cry'd out without Sence of Persons, and being pass'd Sence of Characters, as the Golden Gale blew, or according as the Balmy Stream from the Tap has inflam'd their Understandings—What if drunken Electors have chosen a drunken Candidate, and the Town of —, by the Power of 2000 l. Expence in Drink and Bribes, return'd 2 Fools, 2 Knaves, to let their Bidders determine—Still here is no SHOCK-DOG, Gentlemen, therefore you cannot suspect me to mean any Place in England, a Shock-Dog is so gross a Thing to make a M—r of. E—r it self never made such a Choice as that.

I cannot say, but a Shock-Dog may be a sagacious Creature, have a great Deal of Subtillity and Forecast; nay, that Dog in a Doublet, the late L. R. tells us, of a Hound that was a great Deal wiser than a certain Parliament Man.—

If therefore Jowler seeks and finds his Hares, Better than Meers supplies Committee-Chairs; Tho' One's a Statesman, T'other but a Hound, Jowler in Justice will be wiser found.

Roch. Satyr against Man.

This indeed is a powerful Way of Reasoning, and by this Argument Jowler might have made a good Representative: but this was a Dog of ten thousand, or else the Member, he jested on, was a Member below ten thousand; but I leave that to the

But to choose a Shock Dog, would be a Thing so scandalous, tho' he were never so sagacious a Cur, it would not be tollerable; a Town had better choose a M—s, or a M—, or a P—, or a any Body, tho' two of them put together have not the Sence of a Shock-Dog, nor half the Honesty.

From all these Arguments, Gentlemen, besides the Author's Word, as to his Meaning, you may rest assur'd, if you please, that this Story of a Shock-Dog is not Historical at all as to England; that I do not say, that my Lord or any other Body in England offer'd to put up his Shock-Dog for Member of Parliament, no, no, not a Word of it.

As for Thinking, Meaning, Insinuations, Insuendoes, and such Things, I object against them in your Behalf good People, not in my own; for it must be the severest Satyr in the World upon you, To suppose, that I should mean England, for how can you make my Supposition rational, unless you acknowledge Circumstances to make something of a Parallel? Now, Gentlemen, did ever a Town in England make good any of these Circumstances? Sure you will not abuse your own Country so much? Did ever Money and Ale so influence a Town, as to make them choose any thing unsight, unseen; the very Towns of Bramber, Stockbridge, Winchelsea, nay S—k it self will rise up in Arms upon you, but to suggest such a Thing of them; you cannot therefore suppose, I imagin'd any Town in England would choose a Shock-Dog M—r of P—t, unless you first acknowledge, that some Town in England has acted upon the same or a like Foot, and that would be your Satyr, not mine—Now it will be very unjust to say, that Money or Ale, or a great Man's Recommendation should govern our Elections in England, unless it can be made out.

As for me it is so horrid, so fordid, so unaccountable a Thing, that M—n for a Draught of Ale should sell their Country, and set up Brutes to vote away their Money, their Laws, their Privileges, and in short, *their All*, that it need not be wonderd, I can give you no Account of such a Practice

Practice nearer Home than the Moon—Nay, I think, I am very just to you all, in telling this as a strange and wonderful Story, a Thing practis'd a great Way off in the Moon, among a Sort of People (*GOD forbid it should be found nearer Home*) that have but little Conversation with us, if they had, no doubt we should teach them better.

Bless us all ! What, take Money, and Treats, and Drink, to guide and bias their Voices in Elections of Parliament Men ; no Man certainly can do so, but he that has liv'd among Moon-blind Sots, and has learnt the Follies of those Lunar Places, where perhaps People have no Sense of Liberty, of Right, of Justice, or their Posterity ? What Woman in her Wits would marry such a Man ? He will certainly, if ever like Occasion should offer, sell Her and her Children, and all he has ; and indeed to give his Vote for Men of Bribes and Drunkennells, to give his Voice for Money, or to be debauch'd out of his Judgment by Liquor, by the wheedling Arts of the Bottle, or the Vapour of Strong Drink, is not only of Kin to selling a Man's Wife and Children, but it is the same Thing, the very individual Thing.

Did not our Fathers in a Pension-Parliament sell our Liberties, and give away our Substance to the Luxury and Tyranny of that Party ? Did not our Fathers sell us to a *Papish* Successor, and to all the Miseries of a War that has follow'd it ? How did they get leave to do this, but by buying the Voices of the poor, ignorant, debauch'd People ?—And why was it, that the Policy of that Age made it their great Rule to debauch the Morals and Sences of the People in general ; but in order to this very Thing, that being made thus Lunatick, they might be bound in the Chains of a fetter'd Understanding, and led Hoodwiak'd to their own Ruin as an Ox to the Slaughter ; that they might make Estimates of their Liberties by their debauch'd Judgments, and so choose Men equally given up, who might be likewise deprav'd and subjected to Bribery, for the Destruction of the Laws, Liberties and Prosperity of their Country ?

Thus it was of old Time, when Arbitrary Councils invaded us, and it was by the Aid of this vile Practice, those Arbitrary Councils obtain'd upon us ; Freeholders and Electors being debauch'd to give away or sell away their Voices to Villains, that had been before debauch'd in Principle, and had consented to deposite our Liberty into the Hands of Tyranny.

But this was in old Times along while ago ; since that, the Revolution has open'd our Eyes, now we cannot possibly be so dark in our Understanding ; Experience and the Smart of former Follies have made us wiser : Then we might choose Chains for Freedom, Papists for Successors, Tyrants for Sovereigns, and Shock-Dogs for Parliament Men, *for they are alike rational*, but it cannot be so now ; therefore Gentlemen Electors and Freeholders, I don't mean you, so by no means.

I might indeed put in a Caution at a Distance, for I know, you do not love to have them be too close, nor pinch you too hard, and this is, That you would have a care you do not appropriate the Story of the Shock-Dog to your selves by too great a Similitude of Practice ; you know how I mean, *a Word to the Wife, &c.*

In the Countries about the Moon, where this Story of the choosing the Shock-Dog came from, I had one Observation more, which I cannot refrain noting to you, and that is this ; That tho' the Blindness of the poor People was so great as to be impos'd upon in this Matter of their Choice, and that in so gross a Manner as is related ; yet that they that did so were justly blam'd for it, generally condemn'd for it by all the wiser Sorts of People, the Practice was detested, and sometimes justly punished by the very same publick Assemblies they chose for ; and which is most remarkable of all, they became the Jest and Banter of the very People themselves that they serv'd in it.

Nay, the very Shock-Dogs they chose would be some of the first would bark, snarl and turn Tail upon them, and at best, make a Spoil of them for their Labour ; I do not say, any Part of my Simily will look a Squint towards these lower Regions, but assure your

your selves, if the first should do it, the last will be a Consequence; They that make ye drunk first, get your Votes next, and laugh at you last, and abuse you all the Way.

Who laughs more at the Folly of some of our modern *Whigs*, who in a late famous City Election, turn'd their Backs upon their Friends, divided the Interest, voted for an Enthron'd Statue, and made the Office Parliament-Man; not the Man who laughs at them more than the very Man they chose, and the very Party that wheedled them into such a preposterous unaccountable Piece of City Policy? In short, Gentlemen, if ye will divide, if ye will worship the Unworshipful, if you will aid *Tories* to insult you, you may e'en stay at Home, and vote none, or choose blindly who your Enemies bid you, *a-la-mode the Shock Dog*, it is all one.

Choosing of Members, signifies singling and picking unqualify'd Persons, as well as determining Number of Suffrages; you that hoodwink your Judgments, and pick not your Men, the Point of the Story is directly upon you; You choose the *Shock-Dog*, you choose your Enemy, you choose your Destroyers—O *Whigs*, *Whigs*, are these the Politicks your Enemies charge? In Good-sooth, we may say, ye are Fools, and they Liars; to say ye are Politicians, is a profound Mystery; for he that can find any Policy in this Part of your Proceedings, must have the second Sight, and an Art to see the Invisibles.

Catch a *Tory* voting for a *Whig*! Where can you find me that Fool to his Party? Where will you shew me their Party dividing? Where can you shew me a *High-Flyer* voting for a *Whig*, tho' he were a Lord Mayor? The Devils Votaries are always true to their Master, and the Children of this World wiser in their Generation than the Children of Light: I must own, it is but lately, that the Party have took up a Notion, that *Whigs* were Politicians. Indeed, Gentlemen *High Flyers*, had the *Whigs* been Politicians, how could it be, that you, as you say, have been 19 Years under their Discipline, and yet remain a

Party? Had you had the Government half the Time, you would have destroy'd, if possible, the very Name of a *Whig* from off the Nation?—I may give a Specimen of this perhaps in Time, to let the World see your extraordinary Politicks from 1670 to 1688, in the North of Britain, by which the World may come to an Understanding of the mighty Noise, which has of late been made there of Persecution.

Well, as to *Whigish* Policy, Gentlemen, let us talk no more of it, lest we come to be charged with arguing upon Non-Entities, and talking of Things which have no Being in the World, I may have more Leisure to give you a Description of this Matter hereafter; but in short, Gentlemen, if the *Whigs* had no more Honesty than Policy, the Government of this Nation had sunk, long before Queen ANN came to the Crown.

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